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March 13, 1979

Dear Mr. Drinan:

26 Thank you for your letter of February 27 on behalf of
and friends concerning the plight of Andri
Wallenberg. Representative Ashley has also written to us on
your constituent's behalf and I have sent him a similar
reply.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallen-
berg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest,
Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in January of
1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In
response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government,
the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that
Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947.
Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially
raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of
subsequent occasions, citing the fact that several persons
claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet
Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's mother, Mrs. Frederick von Dardel, has
continued to pursue the question of the fate of her son with
the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the
Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar
with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best
position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the
event that further representation would be believed helpful.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Penet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

PA/PC/CMD:APlotzky.ebj H# 28-1770 LPC:EUR 7/78 H-TWeston
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Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date: 10/16/93

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